



Official

Claims

The claims are not amended by this response and are reproduced below.

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1-80 (Previously cancelled)

81. (Previously added) A communication system comprising:

a signaling processor configured to receive and process signaling for a call to select a connection, a bandwidth rate, an encoding scheme, and a billing rate, to transfer a first message indicating the connection, the bandwidth rate, and the encoding scheme, and transfer a second message indicating the billing rate to an accounting system; and

an interworking unit configured to receive the first message and user communications for the call, and in response, to apply the encoding scheme to the user communications and transfer the user communications over the connection at the bandwidth rate.

82. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling comprises a signaling system seven message.

83. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling processor is configured to select the bandwidth rate based on a caller number.

84. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling processor is configured to select the bandwidth rate based whether the call is a voice call or a data call.

85. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling processor is configured to select the encoding scheme based on a caller number.

86. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the encoding scheme comprises compression.

87. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the encoding scheme comprises encryption.

88. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling processor is configured to select the billing rate based on the bandwidth rate.

89. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein the signaling processor is configured to select the billing rate based on the encoding scheme.

90. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 81 wherein:

the interworking unit is configured to detect a call trigger in the user communications and transfer a third message indicating the call trigger;

the signaling processor configured to receive and process the third message to select a new bandwidth rate and to transfer a fourth message indicating the new bandwidth rate; and

the interworking unit is configured to receive the fourth message, and in response, to transfer the user communications over the connection at the new bandwidth rate.

91. (Previously added) A method of operating a communication system, the method comprising:

in a signaling processor, receiving and processing signaling for a call to select a connection, a bandwidth rate, an encoding scheme, and a billing rate, transferring a first message indicating the connection, the bandwidth rate, and the encoding scheme, and transferring a second message indicating the billing rate to an accounting system;

in an interworking unit, receiving the first message and user communications for the call, and in response, applying the encoding scheme to the user communications and transferring the user communications over the connection at the bandwidth rate.

92. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein receiving and processing the signaling comprises receiving and processing a signaling system seven message.

93. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein selecting the bandwidth rate comprises selecting the bandwidth rate based on a caller number.

94. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein selecting the bandwidth rate comprises selecting the bandwidth rate based on whether the call is a voice call or a data call.

95. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 91 wherein the encoding scheme comprises selecting the encoding scheme based on a caller number.

96. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 91 wherein the encoding scheme comprises compression.

97. (Previously added) The communication system of claim 91 wherein the encoding scheme comprises encryption.

98. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein selecting the billing rate comprises selecting the billing rate based on the bandwidth rate.

99. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein selecting the billing rate comprises selecting the billing rate based on the encoding scheme.

100. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 further comprising:

in the interworking unit, detecting a call trigger in the user communications and transferring a third message indicating the call trigger;

in the signaling processor, receiving and processing the third message to select a new bandwidth rate and transferring a fourth message indicating the new bandwidth rate; and

in the interworking unit, receiving the fourth message, and in response, transferring the user communications over the connection at the new bandwidth rate. --

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